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Przyjaźń na okrągło
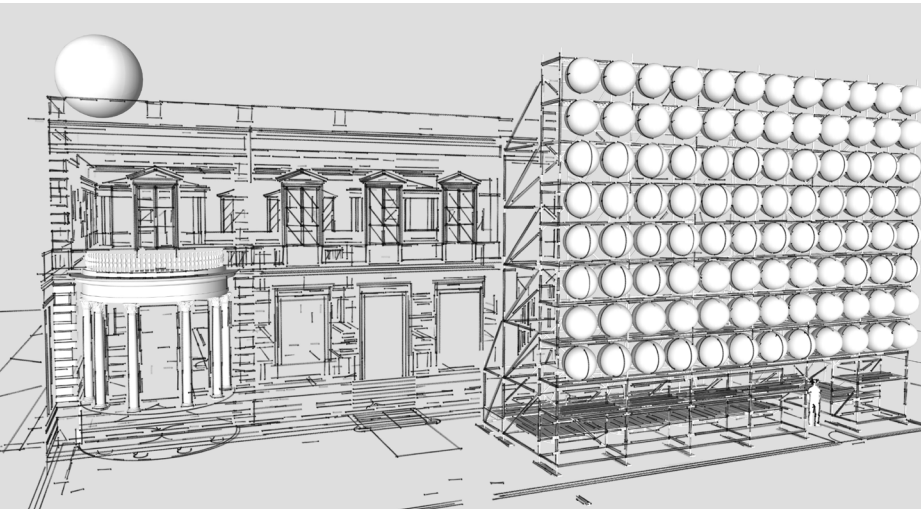
"Przyjaźń na okrągło", a unique installation

Installation on view from 9 September until mid-November 2021

The installation by Philipp Krebs and Paul Reichardt, in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in Poland, marks the 100th anniversary of the Embassy's presence in Poland. "Przyjaźń na okrągło" sym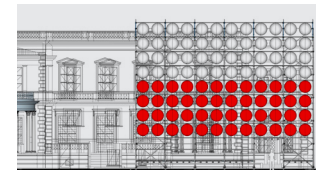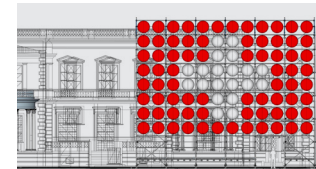bolises joy, harmony, movement, encounter, friendship and surprise in a playful way. Take a moment to enjoy the work. Each of the 100 balloons represents one year of the Embassy's presence in Poland. Observe and interact with the installation.

Interact 📶 ↕️

The change of the two alternating images – from one flag to the other and back again – is determined by a certain rhythm. As the viewer, you can intervene in this rhythm. **Connect with your smartphone to the WiFi network #razem100_xxxPL or #razem100_xxxCH.**

When connected, you will activate the rotation mechanism and the flag will instantly switch. After doing so, your WiFi connection will be "used up" and a new WiFi network will appear after a short time. When connecting to the WiFi network, no data will be stored anywhere.

The environment is important to us

To reduce our impact on the climate, we offset the carbon footprint of this installation. The balloons are made of PVC, were manufactured abroad, and had to be transported to Warsaw.

The greenhouse gas emissions of production and transport correspond to roughly four tons of CO_2 equivalents, which we have offset with a compensation payment to the Foundation myclimate (www.myclimate.org). In addition, the Embassy will plant a tree in Warsaw in the fall as part of the City's Green Fund initiative.

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The creators of "Przyjaźń na okrągło"

Philipp Krebs

architect and artist

Son of a Polish mother and a Swiss father, action artist Philipp Krebs was born in Lima, Peru, in 1961. The family returned to Switzerland in 1968. At the age of 25, Philipp entered the prestigious engineering school in Burgdorf, Switzerland, where he earned a degree in architecture, a discipline that would eventually lead him into the world of public art.

Philipp is married, has three children, and lives in Bern. In 2021, he obtained Polish citizenship and is now a dual citizen of both countries.

Paul Reichardt

project engineer and artist

Since 1990 Paul Reichardt has been accompanying Philipp's projects as an engineer and co-designer of the installations. In the project "Przyjaźń na okrągło" he is responsible for the entire technical design, graphic renderings, production of the motors and attachments, control and operation.

Born in Basel, Switzerland, in 1954 and raised there, Paul began studying architecture at ETH Zurich before switching to civil engineering and graduating in 1979 in transportation planning and water management. He then worked in accident prevention for 38 years. Since retiring in 2017, he has devoted more time to art and his own creativity, which manifests itself mainly in his photographic work. He is married, has two grown-up children, and lives in Bern.

Bridge Projects and FlyingWalls

The first two monumental public art projects, called "The Bridge Projects", showcased the exuberant nature of wind. In subsequent years, Philipp Krebs and his team created art installations that did not need to be attached to existing structures. Instead, he used large helium-filled balloons that moved and danced in the wind in a manner similar to The Bridge Projects. These new projects were fittingly named "FlyingWalls."

AirWave Bern (Switzerland), 1990

Philipp Krebs started his first project in 1989 in Bern (Switzerland), where he spent part of his childhood.

High Wire Act Dresden (Germany), 1991

Philipp's next project took him to Dresden, where he restaged the appearance of the Loschwitz Bridge, also known as "The blue miracle".
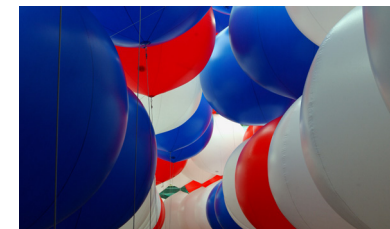
FlyingWalls Berlin (Germany), 2001

Flying Walls' first big balloon project was a three-dimensional Swiss flag that consisted of 132 helium-filled balloons. It was displayed in front of the Embassy of Switzerland in Germany to celebrate the Swiss National Day on 1 August 2001.

FlyingWalls Madrid (Spain), 2003

The second FlyingWalls, 12 meters high, were arranged around the Templo de Debod in the Parque del Oeste in Madrid. The 100 red and white balloons on the east side represented the Swiss flag, while the 100 red and yellow balloons on the west side showed the Spanish flag. On the short side, the two flags merged, symbolizing the good relations between the two countries.

FlyingTunnel Amsterdam (Netherlands), 2003

On the historic Beursplein, 101 helium-filled balloons formed a walk-through tunnel, 19 meters high and 48 meters long, in the shape of an inverted Y.

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From Warsaw to New York!

Philipp Krebs and his team seek to conquer other continents with their large-scale and radiant installations. The next stage will be overseas, in New York.

Lighthouse Beam New York (USA), 2019

As a pilot to the FlyingFreedoms project planned for 2022, FlyingWalls presented the main attraction of the FIGMENT Project, an annual free, participatory arts event on Roosevelt Island, in the form of nine multicolored balloons arranged in a row.

FlyingFreedoms New York (USA), planned for 2022

Find more information on www.flyingwalls.com

FlyingFreedoms is an artistic interpretation of the four freedoms that President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed in his famous 1941 State of the Union address. Each of the four freedoms is associated with a colour: freedom of speech and expression is blue, freedom of worship is green, freedom from want is red, and freedom from fear is yellow. Rows and clusters of colourful balloons are spread across two parks on Roosevelt Island in New York, creating a microcosm representing all the countries of the world.

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We are grateful to all our sponsors

"Przyjaźń na okrągło" was made possible thanks to the commitment of the eight companies below. Thank you for your generous support!

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Przyjaźń na okrągło

"Anniversary Projects" of the Embassy of Switzerland

On the occasion of its 100th anniversary, the Embassy of Switzerland in Poland is pleased to invite you to the following events allowing to celebrate this special jubilee together for even longer!

Touring exhibition
"CLEANTECH - Technology for a Green Future"
October 2021 - December 2022
Largest cities in Poland

"CLEANTECH - Technology for a Green Future" is a travelling exhibition consisting of 21 panels presenting innovative technological solutions developed in Switzerland that contribute to reducing humanity's impact on the climate and the environment.

The aim of the exhibition is to exchange experiences and initiate dialogue between Poland and Switzerland in the field of "cleantech" and sustainable development. From October 2021 to December 2022, it will be presented in major Polish scientific institutions and innovation parks.

CAN TECH SAVE THE WORLD?
Swiss solutions to protect the environment

Ensuring Access to Clean Drinking Water

Polish-Swiss GameJam
19-21 October 2021
Poznań

To celebrate its centenary in an innovative and youthful way, the Embassy invites Swiss video game developers to participate in the Game Industry Conference (GIC) in Poznań. Before the conference, Polish and Swiss game professionals will meet for a GameJam to create video games from scratch in mixed teams.

The "SwissGames" delegation is supported by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia. Stay tuned and follow the hashtags #razem100 and #SwissGames on social media!
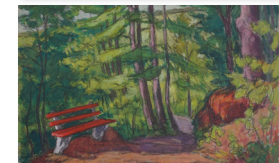

Exhibition "Landscapes by Tadeusz Wojnarski:
A Soul in Mirror Reflection"
October 2021 - February 2022
Museum of Hunting and Horsemanship,
Royal Łazienki Museum, Warsaw

The exhibition will showcase landscapes by Polish-Swiss artist Tadeusz Wojnarski (1922-1999). Born in Warsaw, Tadeusz Wojnarski became a soldier of the Polish Army during World War II fighting in the Polish II Corps of General Anders. After the war he completed his art studies and settled in Switzerland.

The exhibition will present the lesser-known works of the artist – his Swiss landscapes – focusing on four themes: forest, water, mountains and the impact of man on nature. The event is accompanied by an educational programme on environmental protection.

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